

REMARKS

Claims 14-22 have been canceled to allow prosecution of claims 1-13 and 23-48. The specification and abstract have been amended to correct the identity of the Figures and to correct obvious typographical, grammatical, and idiomatic errors. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

With respect to the prior co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/811,659, Applicant hereby incorporates the claim of priority from Japanese Application No. 2000-078220, filed on March 21, 2000, and claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The prior application is assigned of record to NEC Corporation at Reel 011632 and Frame 0061.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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